

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.-26. (Canceled).

27. (New) A universal cleat suitable for use with a plurality of different athletic shoes, each different shoe having uniquely shaped generally triangular recesses in the sole each for receiving a cleat, each recess having a threaded opening therein for receiving a retaining screw to hold a cleat in place and each recess having a recess perimeter, the cleat comprising:

- (a) a one piece molded plastic generally triangular base having two straight sides of equal length with a substantially flat bottom, the dimensions of the substantially flat bottom being sized to fit within each uniquely shaped recess perimeter, vertices of said triangular base being rounded;
- (b) a grip projecting substantially perpendicularly from the base; and
- (c) an oblong shaped mounting hole recessed within the base for receiving the retaining screw;

wherein the area of the base is smaller than the areas of each of the recesses so that in the absence of the retaining fastener, and a cleat can wiggle in a recess the ratio of the length of the mounting hole to width of the mounting hole is from about 8:7 to about 10:7.

28. (New) The cleat of claim 27 wherein the area of the base is from 85 to 95% of the area of the recess.

29. (New) A baseball shoe comprising:

a sole;

multiple recesses in the sole sized for receiving a cleat;

a threaded opening in each recess;

cleats mounted in at least some of the recesses, at least one cleat being a universal

cleat comprising (i) a generally triangular base with a substantially flat bottom, the dimensions of the substantially flat bottom being sized to fit within a plurality of differently shaped recess perimeters, (ii) a grip projecting from the base in a plane substantially perpendicular to the plane of the base, and (iii) a mounting hole in the base, at least one of the mounting holes being oblong shaped; and

a retaining fastener for each cleat extending through the mounting hole and threaded into the respective threaded opening for retaining the respective cleat in place;

wherein the area of the base of each universal cleat is smaller than the area of the respective recess so that in the absence of the retaining fastener, the cleat wiggles in the recess and the ratio of the length of each oblong shaped mounting hole to the width of the oblong shaped mounting hole is from about 8:7 to about 10:7.

30. (New) The shoe of claim 28 wherein all of the cleats are universal cleats.

31. (New) The shoe of claim 29 wherein the area of the base is from 85 to 95 % of the area of the recess.

32. (New) A universal cleat usable in any one of a plurality of differently configured athletic shoes furnished by different manufacturers, all of said shoes sharing the common characteristic of the bottom of each shoe of said plurality having at least one generally triangularly configured cleat mounting surface with an upstanding border defining a recess for receiving said cleat with a threaded receptacle positioned within said recess for receiving a retaining screw to hold the cleat

in place, with said triangularly configured cleat mounting surfaces all having at least two of the three sides being of equal length, said receptacle being positioned closer to the vertices of said triangularly configured surfaces which would be defined by intersection of said sides of equal length than to the remaining vertices of said triangularly configured surfaces, said cleat comprising:

- (a) a generally triangular one piece molded plastic base having a bottom planar surface adapted for facing contact with said cleat mounting surfaces of said shoes of said plurality, with a longest side of said three sides of said base being shorter than the longest side of any of said triangular recesses in any of said shoes of said plurality;
- (b) a grip projecting perpendicularly from the base in a direction oppositely from that of a plane defined by the base planar surface portion; and
- (c) an oblong aperture in the planar portion of said base for passage therethrough of said retaining screw.

33. (New) A universal cleat usable in any one of a plurality of differently configured athletic shoes furnished by different manufacturers, all of said shoes sharing the common characteristic of the bottom of each shoe of said plurality having at least one generally triangularly configured cleat mounting surface with an upstanding border defining a recess for receiving said cleat with a threaded receptacle positioned within said recess for receiving a retaining screw to hold the cleat in place,

- (a) a first shoe of said plurality furnished by a first one of said manufacturers having formed in the bottom exterior surface an equilateral three sided recess formed about said receptacle, sides of said recess extending

transversely outwardly from said shoe bottom exterior surface, vertices of said recess being rounded, two of said sides being linear and a third side defining an inset inboard of a line which if drawn would connect two of said vertices in a manner identically to that of said linear sides;

- (b) a second shoe of said plurality furnished by a second one of said manufacturers having a generally equilaterally triangularly shaped portion extending outwardly respecting said sole with sides of said triangular raised portions sloping inwardly relative to the triangular shape with increasing distance from said sole, with vertices of said triangle being rounded, with outer edges of two of said sides being linear and an outer edge of a third side defining an inset inboard of a line which if drawn would connect two of said vertices in a manner identically to that of said linear side, with the triangularly shaped portion being positioned about said threaded receptacle formed in said sole with said receptacle substantially midway between the center of said triangular shape and a vertex connecting said two linear edges;
- (c) a third shoe furnished by a third one of said manufacturers having a generally isosceles triangular shaped recess formed about said receptacle with vertices of said recess being rounded and sides of said recess being linear with the two equal length sides being substantially the length of said linear sides of said recesses in said first and second shoes of said plurality as furnished by said first and second manufacturers, said third side being longer than said equal length sides; and

- (d) a fourth shoe furnished by a fourth one of said manufacturers having a portion of generally triangular configuration raised transversely from said sole and surrounding said threaded receptacle adjacently to where one vertex of said triangular configuration would be if two sides of said triangle leading theretowards were extended to intersect, said two sides of said triangular configuration being of equal length and connected by a continuous arc swung about said receptacle, said two equal length sides of said triangular configuration which if extended to intersect would be defined by vertices, terminating short of intersection and being connected by straight line edges of said portion to a third side of said triangular configuration and including an upstanding lip bordering said triangular portion remote from said receptacle with edge portions of said lip bounding said two equal length sides of said triangular portion stopping short of intersection;

said cleat comprising:

- (i) a generally triangular one piece molded plastic base with a longest side of said three sides of said base being shorter than the longest side of said triangular recesses in any of said shoes of said plurality;
- (ii) a grip projecting from the base in a plane substantially perpendicular to the bottom of the base; and
- (iii) an oblong aperture in the base for passage therethrough of said retaining screw.

34. (New) The cleat of claim 33 wherein said longest side of said three sides of said base is shorter than the shortest of said two equal length sides of said triangular configuration of any of said shoes of said plurality.

35. (New) The cleat of claim 33 wherein the area of said base is smaller than the smallest area of the recess of any of the shoes of said plurality so that in the absence of the retaining fastener, the cleat may wiggle within the recess.

36. (New) The cleat of claim 33 wherein the ratio of length to width of the oblong aperture is from about eight to seven (8:7) to about ten to seven (10:7).

37. (New) A universal cleat usable in any one of a plurality of differently configured baseball shoes furnished by different manufacturers, the bottom of each shoe of said plurality having at least one generally triangularly configured recess with a threaded receptacle positioned within each said recess for receiving a retaining screw to hold the cleat in place, comprising:

- (a) a generally triangular one piece molded plastic base with a longest side of said three sides of said base being shorter than the shortest side of any of said triangular recesses in any of said shoes of said plurality;
- (b) a grip projecting perpendicularly from the base; and
- (c) an oblong aperture in the base separated from the grip for passage therethrough of said retaining screw;

wherein the area of said base is smaller than the smallest area of the recess of any of the shoes of said plurality so that in the absence of the retaining fastener, the cleat may wiggle within the recess and the ratio of length to width of the oblong aperture is from about eight to seven (8:7) to about ten to seven (10:7).

38. (New) A universal cleat usable in any one of a plurality of differently configured baseball shoes furnished by different manufacturers, the bottom of each shoe of said plurality having a plurality of cleat-receiving recesses, each of said recesses having at least three sides defined by straight lines, with a threaded receptacle positioned within each said recess for receiving a retaining screw to hold the cleat in place, comprising:

- (a) a one piece generally triangular molded plastic base with a longest side being shorter than the longest of any of said straight line sides of said recesses in said shoes of said plurality;
- (b) a grip projecting perpendicularly from the base; and
- (c) an oblong aperture in the base for passage therethrough of said retaining screw.

39. (New) A baseball shoe comprising:

- (a) a sole;
- (b) a plurality of generally triangular recesses formed on said sole for receiving cleats, each recess having at least one generally triangularly configured cleat mounting surface with an upstanding border defining a recess for receiving a cleat, with a threaded receptacle positioned within said recess for receiving a retaining screw to hold the cleat in place, with said triangularly configured cleat mounting surfaces all having at least two of the three sides being of equal length, said receptacle in each recess being positioned closer to the vertices of said triangularly configured surfaces which would be defined by intersection of said sides of equal

length than to the remaining vertices of said triangularly configured surfaces;

(c) cleats mounted in at least some of said recesses, at least one of said cleats being a universal cleat including:

- (i) a one piece generally triangular plastic base with a longest side of said three sides of said base being shorter than the shortest side of any of said triangular recesses;
- (ii) a grip projecting perpendicularly from the base; and
- (iii) an oblong aperture in the base for passage therethrough of said retaining screw;

wherein the area of the base of each universal cleat is less than the area of the respective recess so that in the absence of a retaining screw said universal cleat may wiggle in said recess and all of said cleats are said universal cleats and the area of a universal cleat base is from eighty-five percent (85%) to ninety-five percent (95%) of the respective recess.

40. (New) A baseball shoe comprising:

- (a) a sole;
- (b) a plurality of generally triangular recesses formed on said sole each for receiving a cleat;
- (c) a threaded opening in each of said recesses;
- (d) cleats mounted in at least some of said recesses, at least one of said cleats being a universal cleat including:



- (i) a generally triangular base with a longest side of said three sides of said base being shorter than the shortest side of any of said triangular recesses in said sole;
- (ii) a grip projecting from the base in a plane substantially perpendicular to the plane of the base; and
- (iii) an oblong aperture in the base for passage therethrough of said retaining screw;

wherein the area of the base of each universal cleat is less than the area of the respective recess so that in the absence of a retaining screw said universal cleat may wiggle in said recess and all of said cleats are said universal cleats and the area of a universal cleat base is from eighty-five percent (85%) to ninety-five percent (95%) of the respective recess.